CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1510
15 May 1998

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

MEXICO

Statement from the Rio Group

The countries of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (Rio Group) deplore the making of nuclear tests in any part of the world, particularly the tests carried out on 11 and 13 May in Rajasthan, India, and reiterate their concern at the negative effects of such tests on international peace, the environment and human health, which all nations are obliged to protect and preserve.

The countries of the Rio Group consider that the international community must take urgent steps to obtain the immediate opening of negotiations on nuclear disarmament with a view to establishing effective measures that will make possible the elimination of nuclear weapons within the foreseeable future and thereby the creation of a real and comprehensive nuclear non-proliferation regime that is universal, genuine and non-discriminatory.

The countries of the Rio Group therefore call upon the Government of India to give a definitive undertaking to the international community to cancel all types of nuclear test.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1511
19 May 1998

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN ADDRESSED TO THE LEADERS OF THE G-8 COUNTRIES REGARDING THE NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS CONDUCTED BY INDIA

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a letter from the Prime Minister of Pakistan addressed to the leaders of the G-8 countries regarding the nuclear weapon tests conducted by India.

I shall be grateful if this letter is circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Munir Akram
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE LEADERS OF THE G-8 COUNTRIES

"The nuclear testing by India of a whole range of weaponry, including systems which are Pakistan specific, has multiplied the immediacy and the magnitude of threat to our security.

Besides fundamentally altering the precarious strategic balance, which contributed to the maintenance of tenuous peace, this Indian action has raised the possibility of aggressive military acts against Pakistan.

You would certainly agree that overt weaponization by India is yet another manifestation of the highly irresponsible and reckless actions taken by India to escalate tensions in the region in recent weeks.

The BJP government has already made its aggressive designs against Pakistan a fundamental article of its policy agenda. In recent days, it has taken steps to implement its designs, including military action across the Line of Control in Kashmir.

In the face of these ominous developments which pose an immediate threat to our security, we cannot be expected to remain complacent.

I had, in April 1998 , drawn your attention to the consequences that would ensue from India's induction of nuclear weapons. We are disappointed that our warnings were not heeded. The latest events have proven us completely right.

We are once again being asked to exercise restraint at an extremely critical juncture on matters involving national security and survival.

I trust that you would recognize and be receptive to Pakistan's legitimate needs for self-defence".

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1512
19 May 1998

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXTS OF A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET ON 13 MAY 1998 AND A STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAKISTAN TO THE SENATE OF PAKISTAN ON 13 MAY 1998

I have the honour to transmit to you the texts of a Press release issued by the Defence Committee of the Cabinet on 13 May, 1998 and a Statement by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to the Senate of Pakistan on 13 May, 1998.

I shall be grateful if these texts are circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Munir Akram
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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PRESS RELEASE OF THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET OF 13 MAY, 1998.

The Defence Committee of the Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to take stock of the situation arising from Indian nuclear tests and overt weaponisation by India.

The meeting concluded that the reckless and highly provocative actions by the Indian Government had fundamentally altered the strategic situation in South Asia, besides dealing a severe blow to global non-proliferation.

The Indian Government had in the recent weeks exhibited a pattern of irresponsible behaviour and taken deliberate steps to further heighten the tensions in the region.

These Indian actions have magnified manifold the immediacy and the magnitude of the threat to Pakistan's security.

The meeting regretted that Pakistan's warnings to the international community particularly major powers to stop India from crossing the threshold had gone unheeded.

On the other hand countries had sought to bring unjustifiable pressure and sanctions to bear on Pakistan, despite our impeccable record of utmost restraint.

The responsibility for demolishing the prospects of a Nuclear Free South Asia rested clearly with India and with those who had adopted a differential approach and sought to either ignore or acquiesce in India's blatant attempts to cross the nuclear threshold.

The meeting affirmed the government's determination to reject any unilateral, selective and discriminatory pressure from any quarter on matters pertaining to national security.

It reiterated Pakistan's resolve to take all steps it deemed necessary for national security, which were within its sovereign rights for self-defence.

After comprehensively evaluating the defence preparedness the meeting expressed satisfaction over Pakistan's ability to respond effectively and adequately to the new threats and challenges.

STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAKISTAN
TO THE SENATE OF 13 MAY 1998.

The news of the carrying out of two further nuclear tests today by India, corroborates our assessment and provides further confirmation, if any were needed, about India's consistent pattern of irresponsible behaviour.

The blind pursuit of intrinsic and inherent hegemonic impulses, reflected so often in Indian behaviour and ignored largely by the international community, despite Pakistan's repeated efforts to draw attention to them, has definitely encouraged and emboldened India to throw all caution to the winds.

The invoking of mandatory sanctions under US Laws against India hardly constitutes an effective response to Indian provocative actions or compensates for errors of judgement, which have seriously disrupted the regional strategic balance.

India is now admittedly testing the whole range of nuclear weaponry, including battlefield/tactical nuclear weapons which are Pakistan specific.

Indian actions, which pose an immediate and grave threat to Pakistan's security, will not go unanswered.

Pakistan once again reiterates that responsibility for consequences that will inevitable ensue would lie squarely with India and those who have colluded and acquiesced in the weaponisation of India's nuclear programme.